

20 September 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: John
FROM: Sheila
SUBJECT: Budget Review Negotiations with OMB

1. I have arranged a lunch for Thursday, 21 September. Present will be: you, [redacted] and me. I think the main topics to be discussed are the following:

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- Format of decision documents. OMB has proposed a format (see attachment). They are reportedly very fond of it and will push to have us adopt it as is. [redacted] are uncertain whether they wish to endorse this format. We do not have to reach agreement with them tomorrow at lunch, but you should decide ahead of time whether it is worth your effort to argue for a different kind of decision document.
- The form and content of our NFIP budget submission.
- Treatment of OMB issues. As you know, any issue which OMB wishes to raise in these joint budget reviews, we are obligated to treat as a decision issue. In the past this has meant that OMB has written their own issue papers where they wish to raise a topic that this staff has not identified as an issue. We should think about alternatives to that procedure. We can either agree to continue letting them write their own issue papers, we could insist that we write all issue papers that go to the DCI, or we could insist that we revise and/or provide a cover note for any issue papers that go to the DCI. I think that we should also establish with them a deadline for their raising new issues. We

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have said that we want to present our issues and recommendations to the DCI at the beginning of November. We should be able to ask OMB to have presented any new issues to us by some date in late October.

-- OMB substantive concerns--we should get some reading from [] on what they consider main issues and from this perspective they are likely to identify any points which we have not now identified as issues.

2. I have made an appointment for you with [] at 4:00 p.m. today to discuss these matters. We might also wish to discuss with him the procedures that he intends to use in the "rounds" of budget scrub, scrub adjustments, and programmatic adjustments to the individual sub-missions and the one to end listing.